AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 9, amend paragraph [0030] as follows:

[0030] The intermediate transfer belt 12 is hung over three support rollers 14, 16, 18 that are provided inside of the intermediate transfer belt 12. A tension roller 20 22 pressed by a spring 20 is in press-contact with the intermediate transfer belt 12 from inside, so that the intermediate transfer belt 12 is under the action of a specified tension (i.e., external force). Thus, the intermediate transfer belt 12 is in an inoperative state with the roller-supported portions being curved under the action of the specified tension when image forming is not under operation. Further, the support roller 14 is a driving roller that is interlocked with an unshown motor and driven so as to rotate, and when the support roller 14 is driven so as to rotate, the intermediate transfer belt 12 is rotated in an arrow A direction. Furthermore, an intermediate transfer belt temperature sensor (detection section) 62 is disposed in contact with or in the vicinity of the intermediate transfer belt 12 for directly detecting the temperature thereof. It is to be noted that the number of the support rollers for the intermediate transfer belt 12 may be at least not less than two.

On page 14, amend paragraph [0042] as follows:

[0042] The control section 60 receives a key entry from an unshown operation panel, an input from outside of the apparatus, an input of detected temperature from a fixing temperature sensor, an input of detected temperature from the intermediate transfer belt temperature sensor 62, as well as other inputs. The control section 60 also outputs a driving signal of a high-voltage supply 42 43, a driving signal of a fixing drive motor for driving the fixing device 48, a driving signal of a main motor 64 for driving the intermediate transfer belt 12 and each of the print units 24Y, 24M, 24C, 24K, as well as other output signals. Moreover, the control portion 60, as described later, controls so that the intermediate transfer belt 12 is put in a preparatory operation for predefined time that is longer than that in normal stabilization control under predefined conditions.

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